MARVEL

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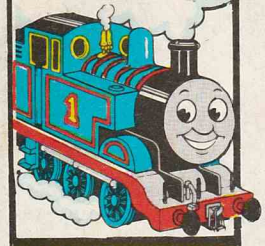
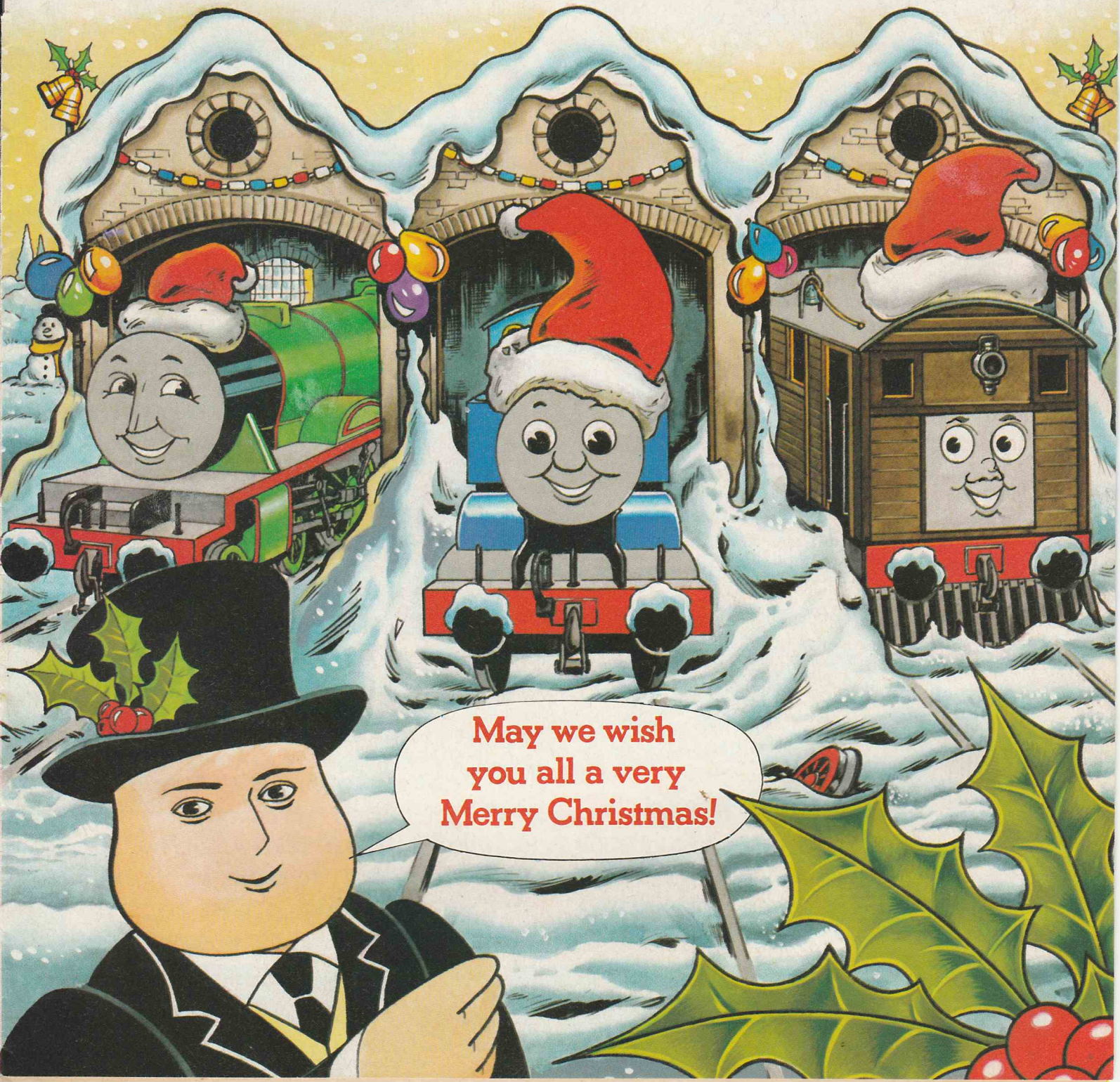


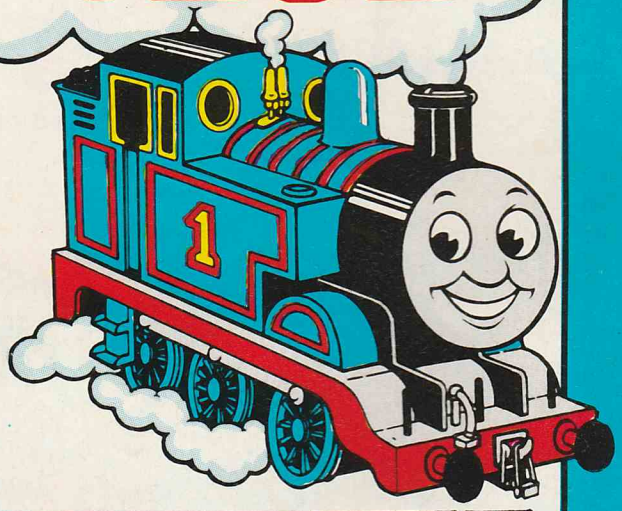
26th Dec. 1987
No.5 35p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!



Peep! Peep! Welcome to our splendid Christmas issue! You can read all about our special Christmas party – and find out just how useful Terence the tractor can be in the snow!

JOIN OUR CLUB!

It's easy to join the Thomas Club – and it's **free!** Just collect **3 tokens** like the one at the bottom of the page – there will be one in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Send them, together with a large, stamped, addressed envelope (at least 21cm×16cm) to: *The Thomas Club, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* You will be sent this splendid Club Pack!

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your Club Pack.

FACT FILE:

Percy the Small Engine

Percy is the junior member of the main team of engines. He is a happy little engine who likes nothing more than to puff around the yard. He does not long for adventure in the great world outside like some of his friends. He is always happy to help – the other engines know this and sometimes ask for his help a bit too often! He is very polite to the Fat Controller – sometimes almost **too** polite!

SPECIAL OFFER!

For details of how to have Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends sent straight to your home every fortnight – and how to become a Club Member straightaway – turn to page 7!

Happy Drawing!

To celebrate Christmas the Fat Controller would like you to send him your own drawing of your favourite engine – and he will **print** the best one! Please don't forget to say why you like your favourite engine best. Send your drawings, together with your name and address, to the Fat Controller at his address on page **19.**

THOMAS TOKEN

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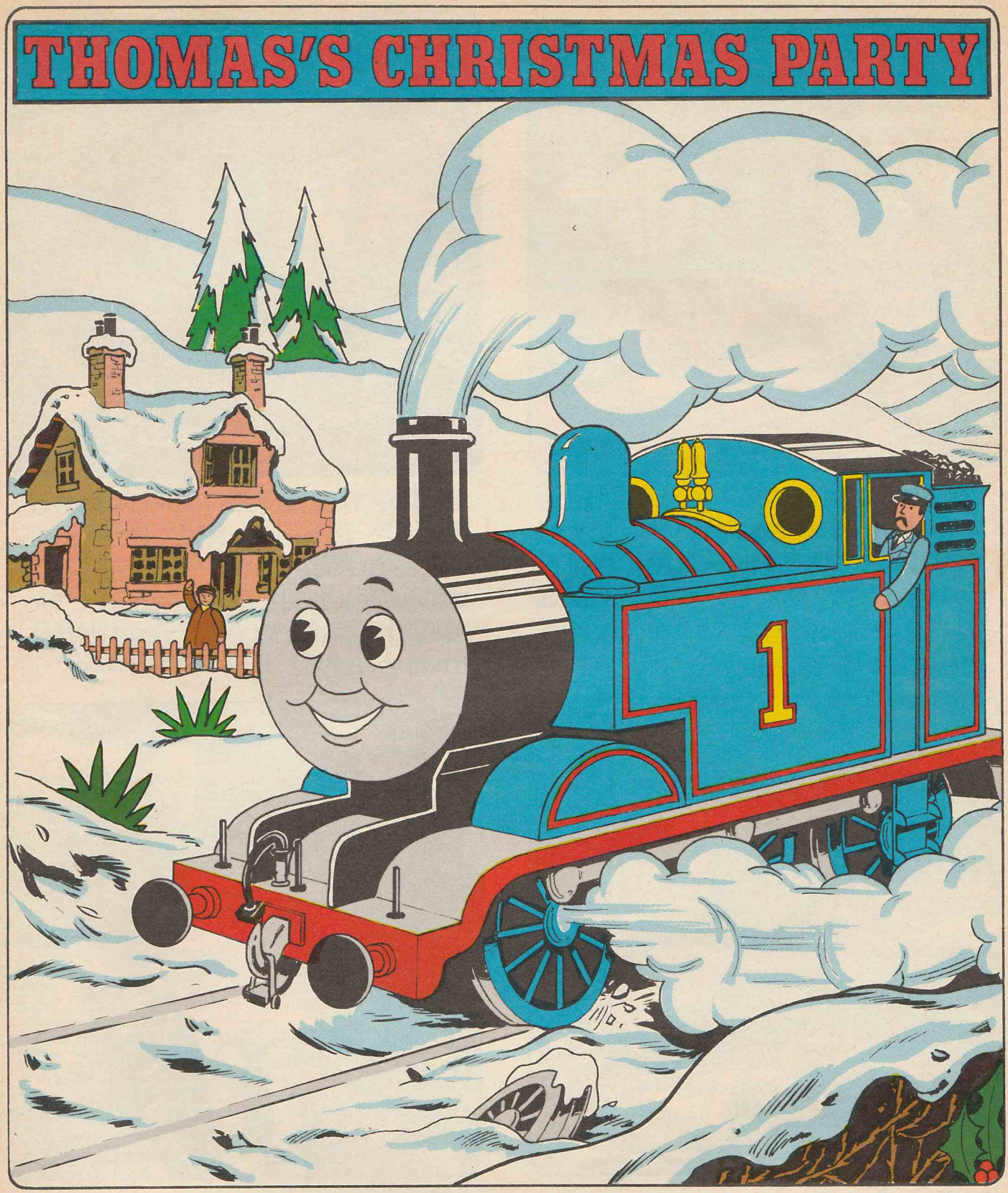
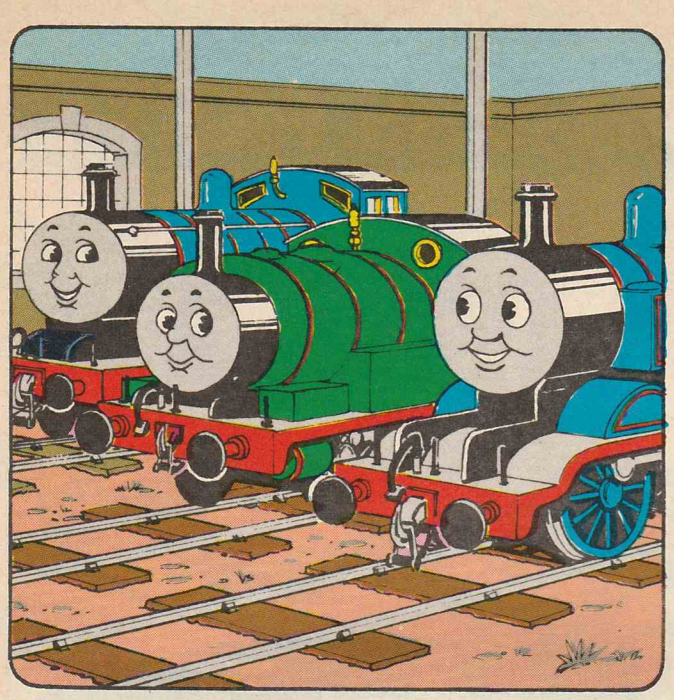
A listen and look story!



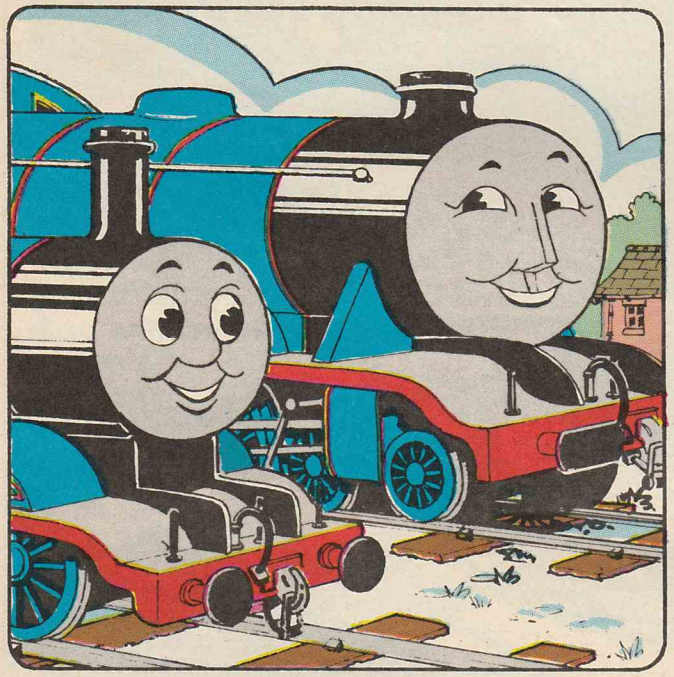
1. It was Christmas on the Island of Sodor and all the engines were working hard. Everyone was happy. Thomas puffed past a little cottage. An old lady waved to him.

2. "It's Mrs. Kyndley," whistled Thomas. "Peep, peep! Happy Christmas!" He always felt better for seeing her. After work he went to see the other engines.



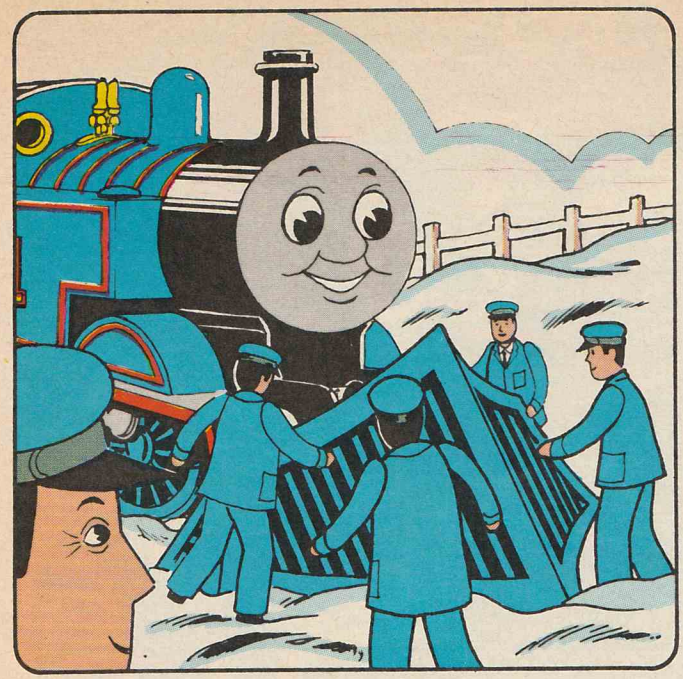
3. "It's a whole year since Mrs. Kyndley saved us from a nasty accident," he said. "She was ill in bed and waved her dressing gown out of her window."

4. "To warn us of a landslide," interrupted Edward. "We never did thank her properly," Thomas said. "So let's give her a special Christmas party."

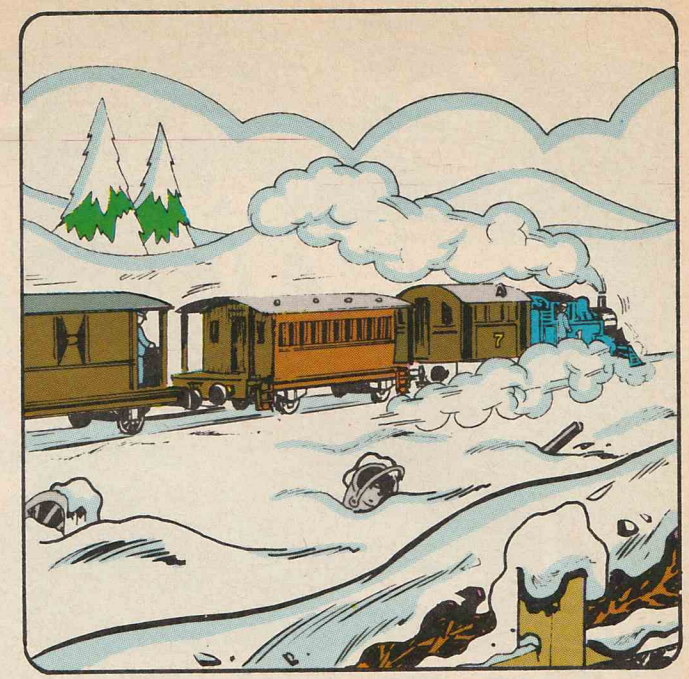


5. The Fat Controller thought this was a splendid idea. The engines set to work making plans. Everyone was excited. Then the Fat Controller brought bad news.

6. "Mrs. Kyndley's snowed up," he told them. "Toby says he will help to rescue her. You must help too, Thomas – there's no party unless you do."

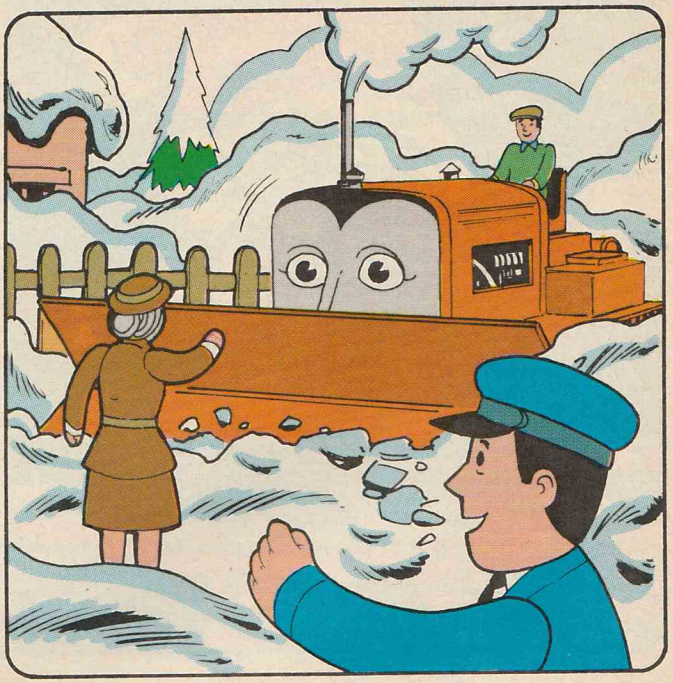


7. Thomas hated snow but he said bravely, "I'll try, sir. We must rescue her. We must!" The Fat Controller smiled. "You and Toby will manage splendidly."

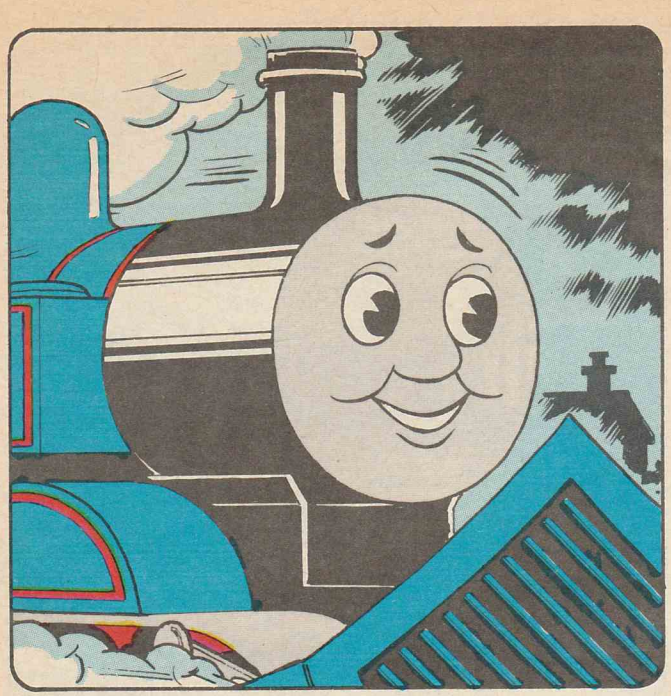


8. Thomas charged the snow drifts fiercely. Sometimes he swept them aside easily, sometimes they stuck fast and the men from the van had to loosen them.

9. But at the cutting near the cottage they could go no further. "Here we are!" whistled Thomas. An answering wave came from an upstairs window.



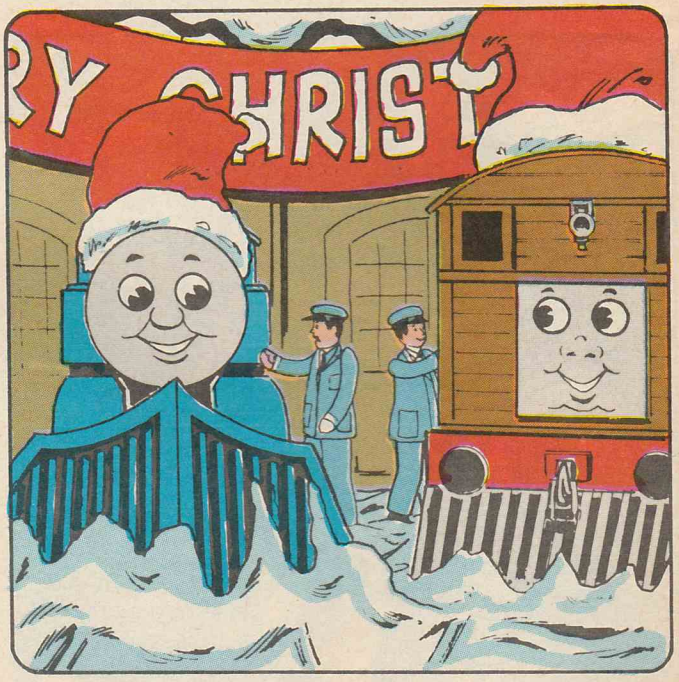
10. Then Terence came to help too. He had a snow plough. Working hard he cleared a patch to the railway line and safety. At last the rescue was complete.



11. When the engines got back to the station with Mrs. Kyndley they found the yard in darkness. "The party must have been cancelled," thought Thomas sadly.

12. Suddenly all the lights went on. What a marvellous sight awaited Mrs. Kyndley. "Well done!" said the Fat Controller. "I'm proud of you all."

13. Mrs. Kyndley especially thanked the smaller engines. "Thomas and Toby are old friends and now, Percy, you are my friend too." Percy was very pleased.



14. All the engines whistled together, **"We wish you a Merry Christmas! We wish you a Merry Christmas! We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!"** **THE END**

In our next issue: James and the troublesome trucks!

Cadbury's Buttons

Name the Nursery Rhyme Competition

1. See Saw Marjory Daw
2. Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross
3. Hey Diddle Diddle The Cat and the fiddle

Here is some nursery rhyme fun from Cadbury's Buttons with a chance to win a super Cadbury's prize.

There are one hundred Cadbury's Buttons activity kits to be won each one including a Cadbury's Buttons Fun Book packed full of puzzles and games to play, a Cadbury's Buttons Activity Calendar with sticky pieces to fill in the day, the date, the season, what the weather is like and how you are feeling; and some Cadbury's Buttons!

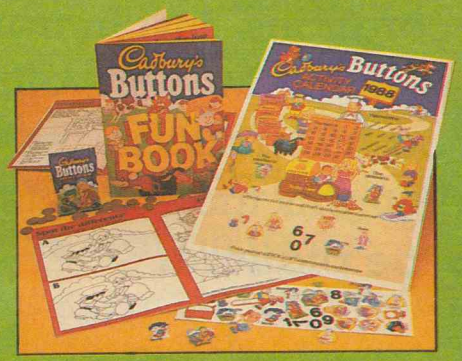
All you have to do is match each of the nursery rhymes with one of the pictures. There are three nursery rhymes to match and all are pictures taken from the packs of Cadbury's Buttons.

Once you have decided which nursery rhyme fits which picture, write your answers on a postcard. For example, if you think that picture (a) is the nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle" write (a) with (1) and so on.

TIE BREAKER Name one other nursery rhyme which you can see on the bags of Cadbury's Buttons.

Send your answers and tie breaker with your name, address and age to **Cadbury's Buttons Competition, 154 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3HU,** to arrive no later than **January 31st 1988.** Don't forget to put the name of the comic in the top left hand corner of the postcard.

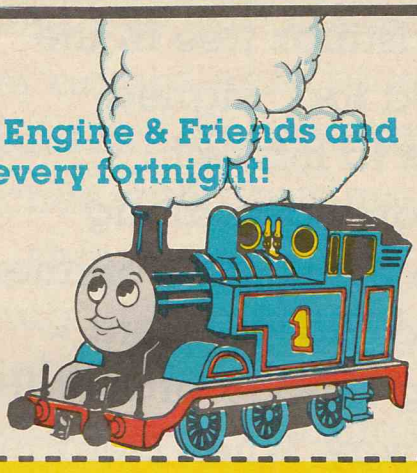
Look out for the Cadbury's Buttons in the shops. You will not be able to miss them with the bright pictures of your favourite nursery rhymes on the bags. And now there are five new nursery rhymes featured on the new packs of Cadbury's Treat Size Buttons.



News of a great offer!

Take out a subscription to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and have every issue sent straight to your home every fortnight!

What's more, if you do not already belong to the Thomas Club, you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting Club Pack will be sent to you too!



It costs £9 including postage and packing to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for one year. Just fill in the form on the right and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9 to: *Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* Make your cheque or postal order payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

***I should like to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* for one year and enclose cheque/postal order for £9 to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the Thomas Club if I do not already belong!**

Name....

Age ..... Birthday .....

Address .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

A read-aloud story!

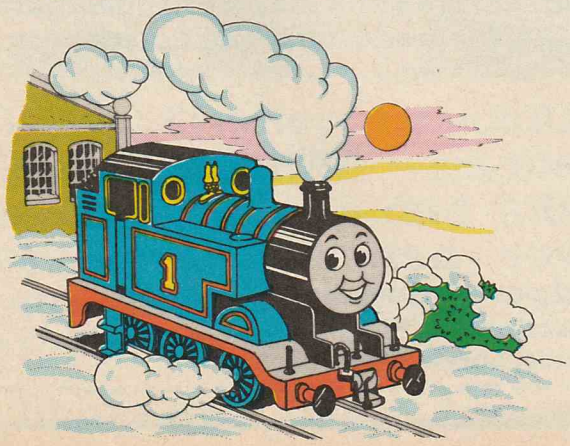
Thomas and the

It was Christmas Eve. There had been a snow storm on the Island of Sodor. The morning sun now shone on the snow as Thomas puffed across the yard to fetch Gordon's coaches.

The station looked splendid with its Christmas decorations. Just in front of the Station Master's office stood a Christmas tree with little lights that brightened up the platform.

"I wish we could have a Christmas tree in the shed too," sighed Thomas to himself.

Gordon was waiting outside the shed. Workmen with big brooms were working hard to brush all the snow away. When Gordon had been properly rubbed down he was ready to leave.



As he puffed out of the station, the Fat Controller looked at his watch. "I do hope Gordon is not going to be late for his journey," he said to himself.

One by one all the engines set off to begin their day's work. Thomas was just fetching Annie and Clarabel when the Fat Controller hurried over to him.

"Quickly, Thomas!" he said, "A tree has fallen and we need your help to clear the line. You can rely on Percy to look after Annie and Clarabel until you get back."

Thomas puffed off as fast as he could. "Please hurry, Thomas!" called his driver. "This is an emergency." Soon they could see Gordon ahead. A pine tree had blown over in the storm and it was lying on the track in front of him.

TREE

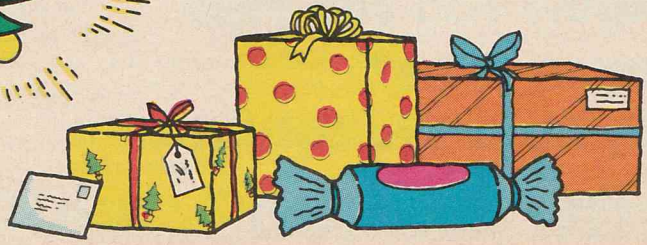
Gordon whistled mournfully. His passengers were becoming impatient. The guards climbed down and attached a strong rope to Thomas's front buffers. They tied the other end round the tree and Thomas started to pull. At last the line was clear. All the passengers thanked Thomas and Gordon puffed away again. "Hurry along! Hurry along!" said his coaches.

Thomas returned to the station. Annie and Clarabel were very pleased to see him. Thomas told them what had happened as they set off along his branch line. That evening, when Thomas came back to the station, a wonderful surprise awaited him. There in the shed was the pine tree, but it was no longer an ordinary pine tree The guards had decorated its branches with Christmas balls, shining stars and glowing lights. It was a special Christmas present for all the engines. Thomas was delighted.

"So my wish has been granted after all," he murmured, happily.

Happy Christmas everyone!

tree



THE END

Round the

Which engine can you see?

What number is he?

How many birds are flying?

Where is the robin?

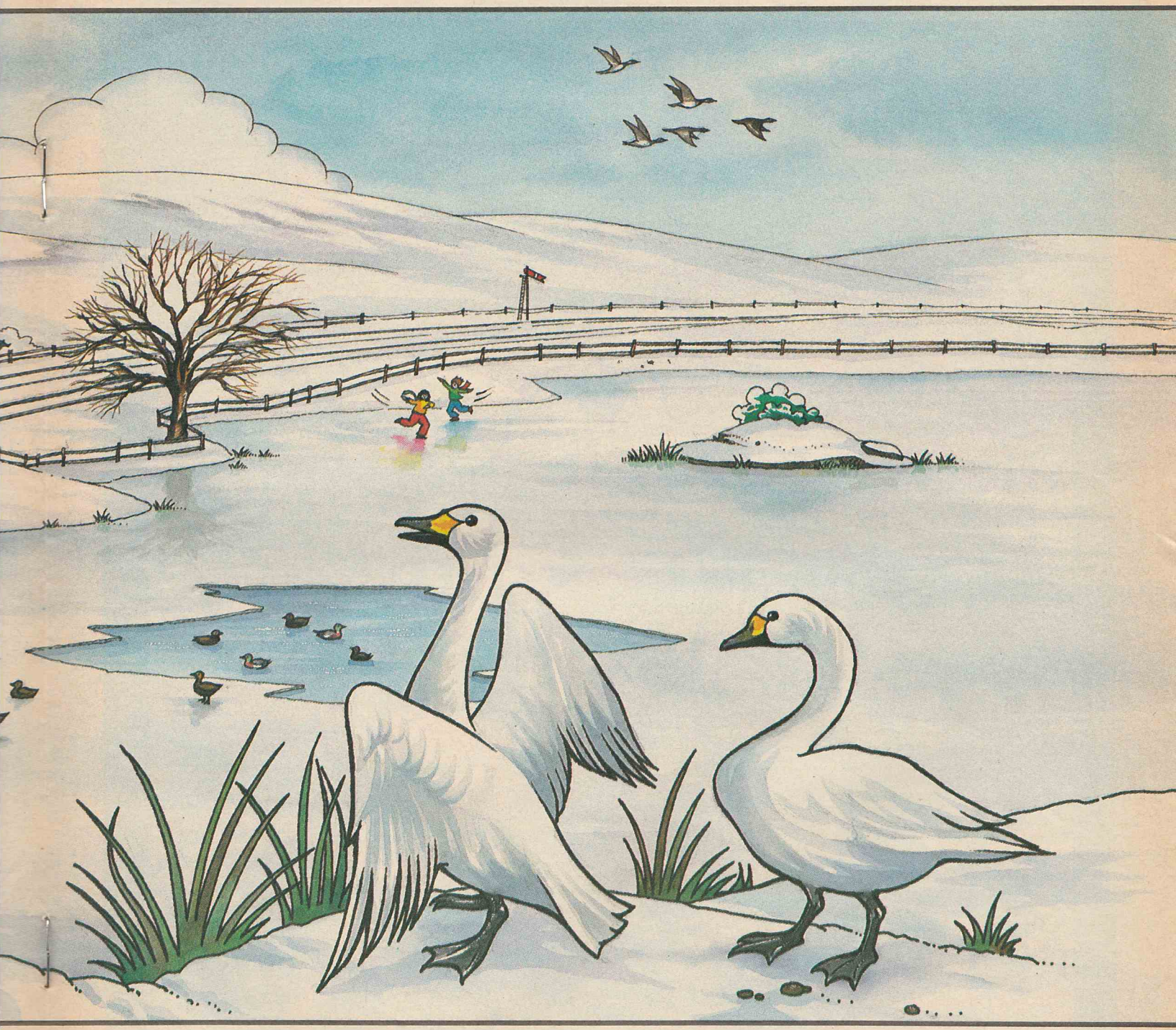
Point to the church spi

What season of the ye

How many ducks are

What colour are the h

lake!



h spire!
ne year is it?
are on water?
he holly berries?

Note for parents

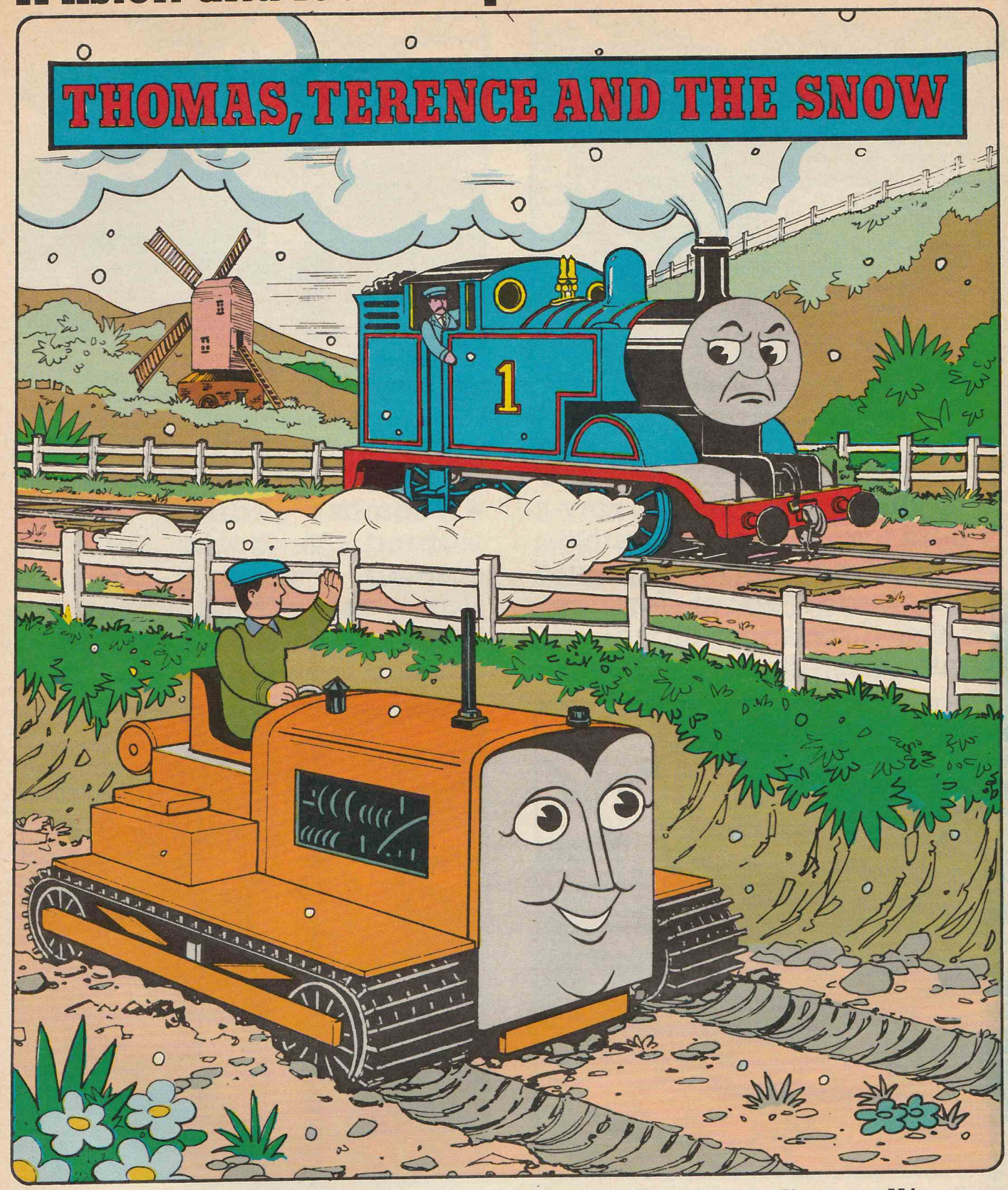
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next: Past the windmill!

COLOURING TIME!

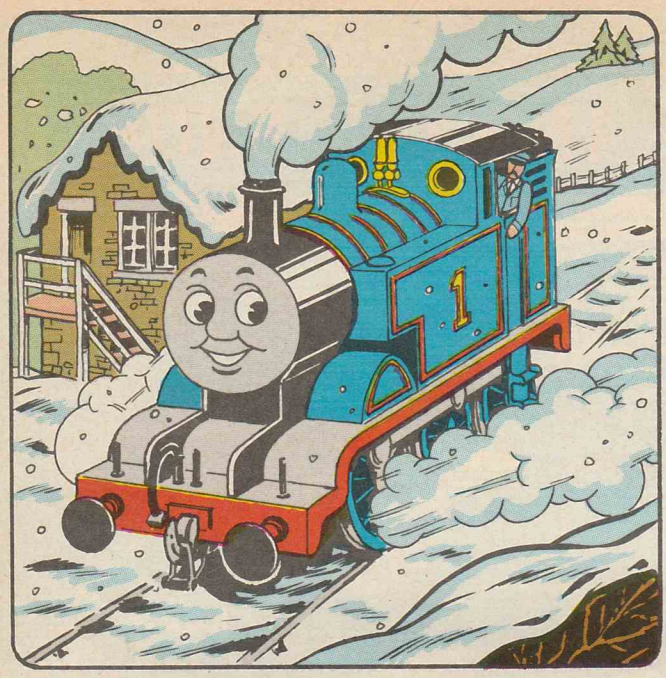
Here's a splendid sight for you to colour!
Merry Christmas everyone!

A listen and look story!

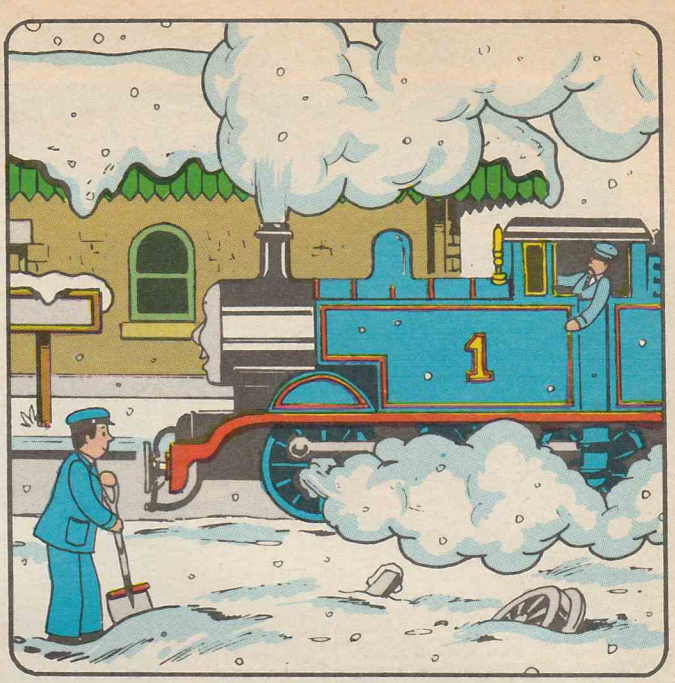


1. One Autumn day Thomas was puffing along his branch line. He saw a tractor close by. "Hello," said the tractor. "I'm Terence. I'm ploughing."

2. "I'm Thomas. I'm pulling a train. What ugly wheels you've got." Terence laughed. "They're not ugly. They're caterpillars. They let me go anywhere."

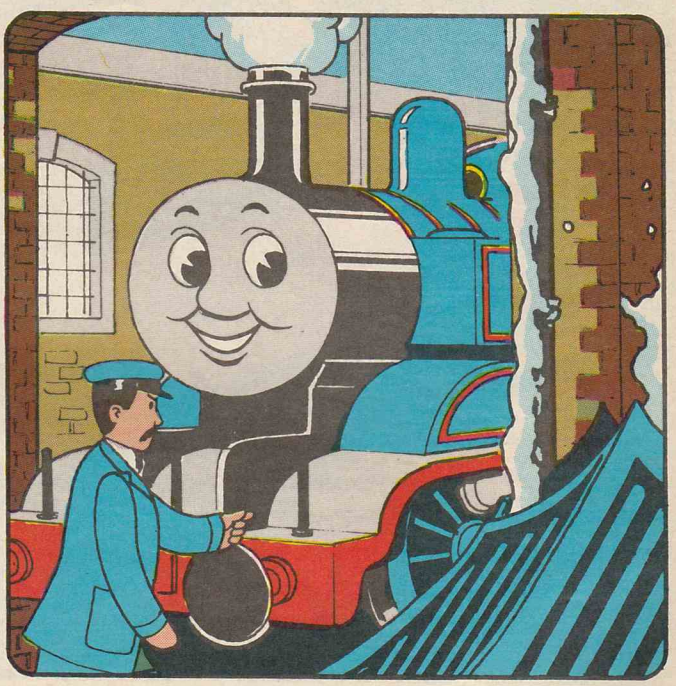


3. "I don't want to go anywhere," said Thomas huffily. "I like my rails." Thomas soon forgot about Terence as the dark snow clouds of winter arrived.

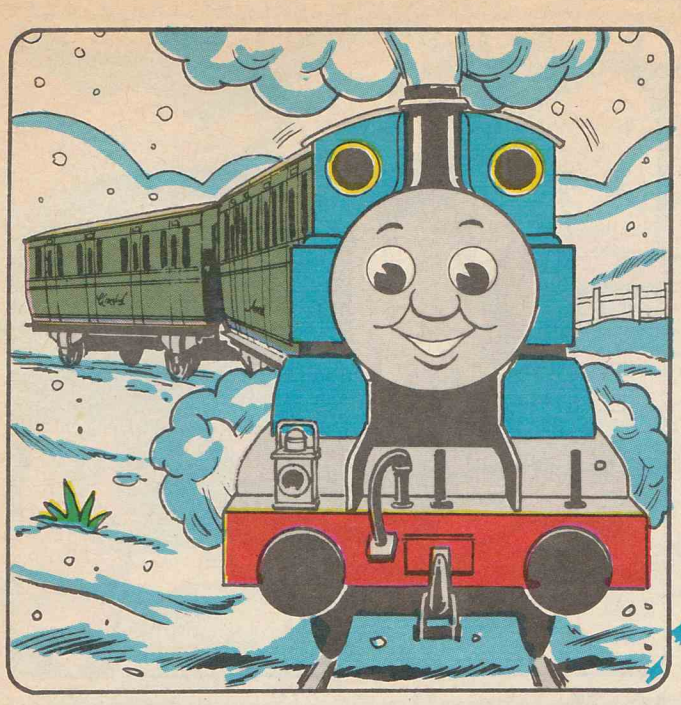


4. Thomas's driver was worried. "A heavy fall is coming. I hope it doesn't stop us." Thomas said, "Nothing to it!" And they finished their journey safely.

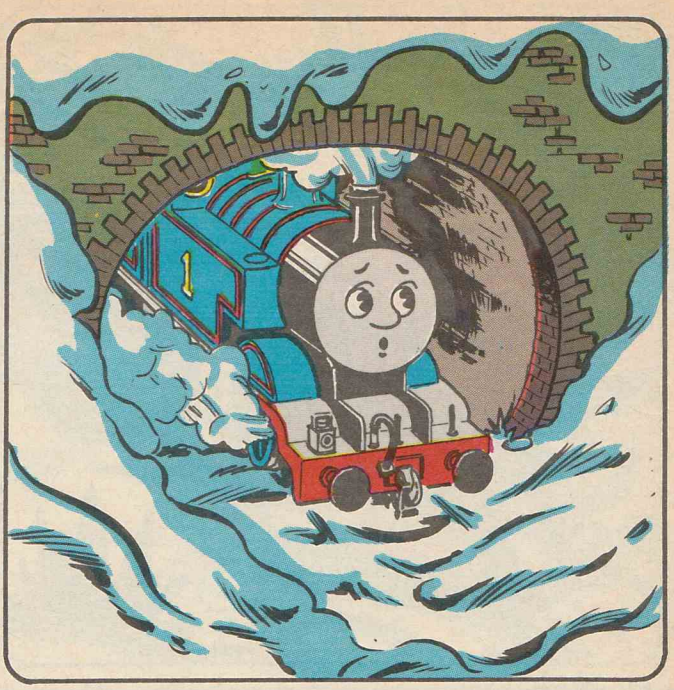
5. Snow now covered the countryside. Thomas's driver had to put on his snow plough. It was heavy and uncomfortable and made Thomas cross.



6. Thomas shook and banged until his snow plough was so damaged his driver had to take it off. "You are a very naughty engine," he said.

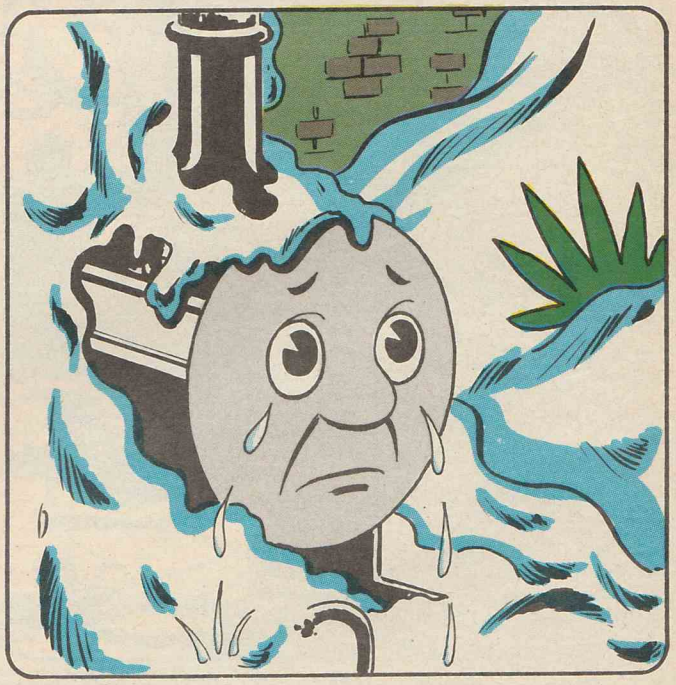


7. Next morning Thomas went out without his snow plough. His driver was worried. "The snow's not bad here but it is sure to be deep in the valley."



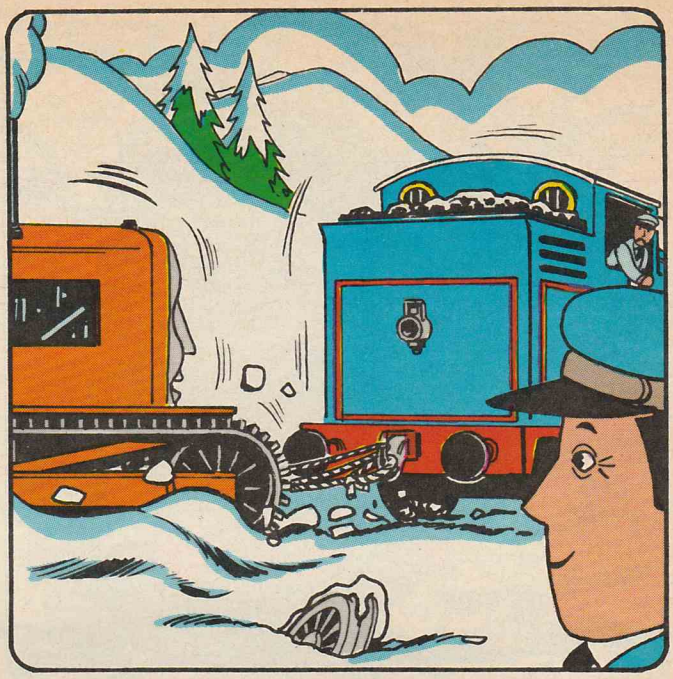
8. "Silly soft stuff! Snow can't stop me!" boasted Thomas. He puffed into a tunnel and ran straight into a heap of snow. "Cinders and ashes," said Thomas. "I'm stuck."

9. Thomas tried to go back, but his wheels spun. He couldn't move. The guard went back for help while everyone tried to dig him out. More snow fell on him.

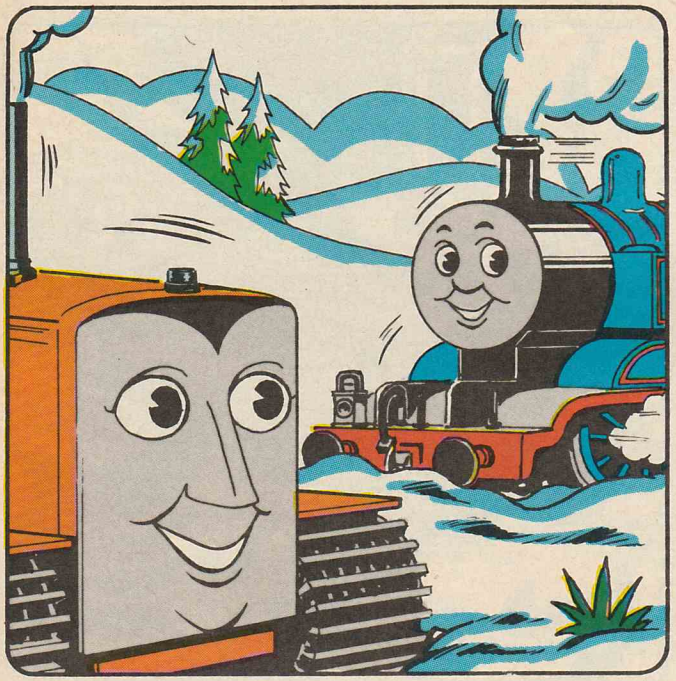


10. Thomas was nearly buried. "Oh, my wheels and coupling rods! I shall have to stop here until I'm frozen!" he said. "What a silly engine I am!" He began to cry.

11. A bus came to rescue the passengers. And then, to Thomas's surprise, along came Terence to rescue him. "Snow never worries me," chuckled Terence.



12. He pulled the empty coaches away then came back for Thomas. Terence tugged and slipped, and slipped and tugged... and suddenly Thomas was free.



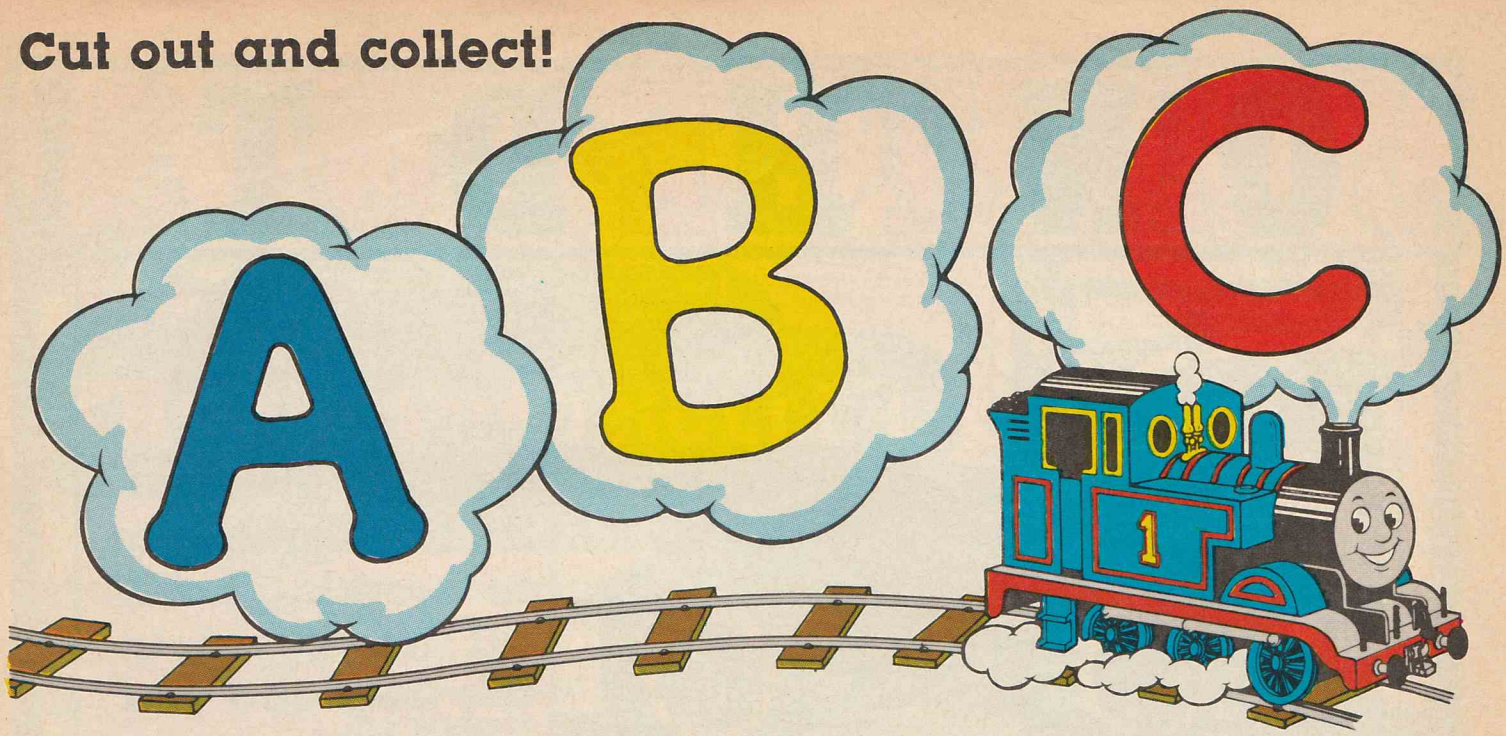
13. Terence pulled Thomas clear of the snow, ready for the journey home. Thomas was very grateful. "Thank you, Terence. Your caterpillars are splendid."

14. Thomas whistled goodbye to Terence. "I hope that you will be sensible now, Thomas," said his driver. "I'll try," said Thomas, as he puffed home.

THE END

In our next issue: James and the express!

Cut out and collect!



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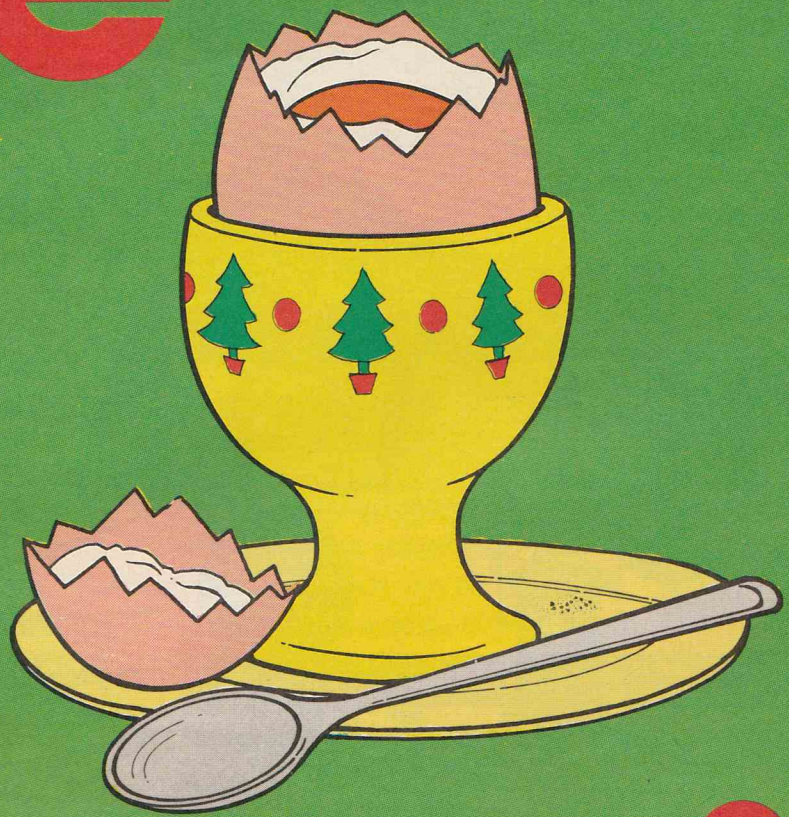
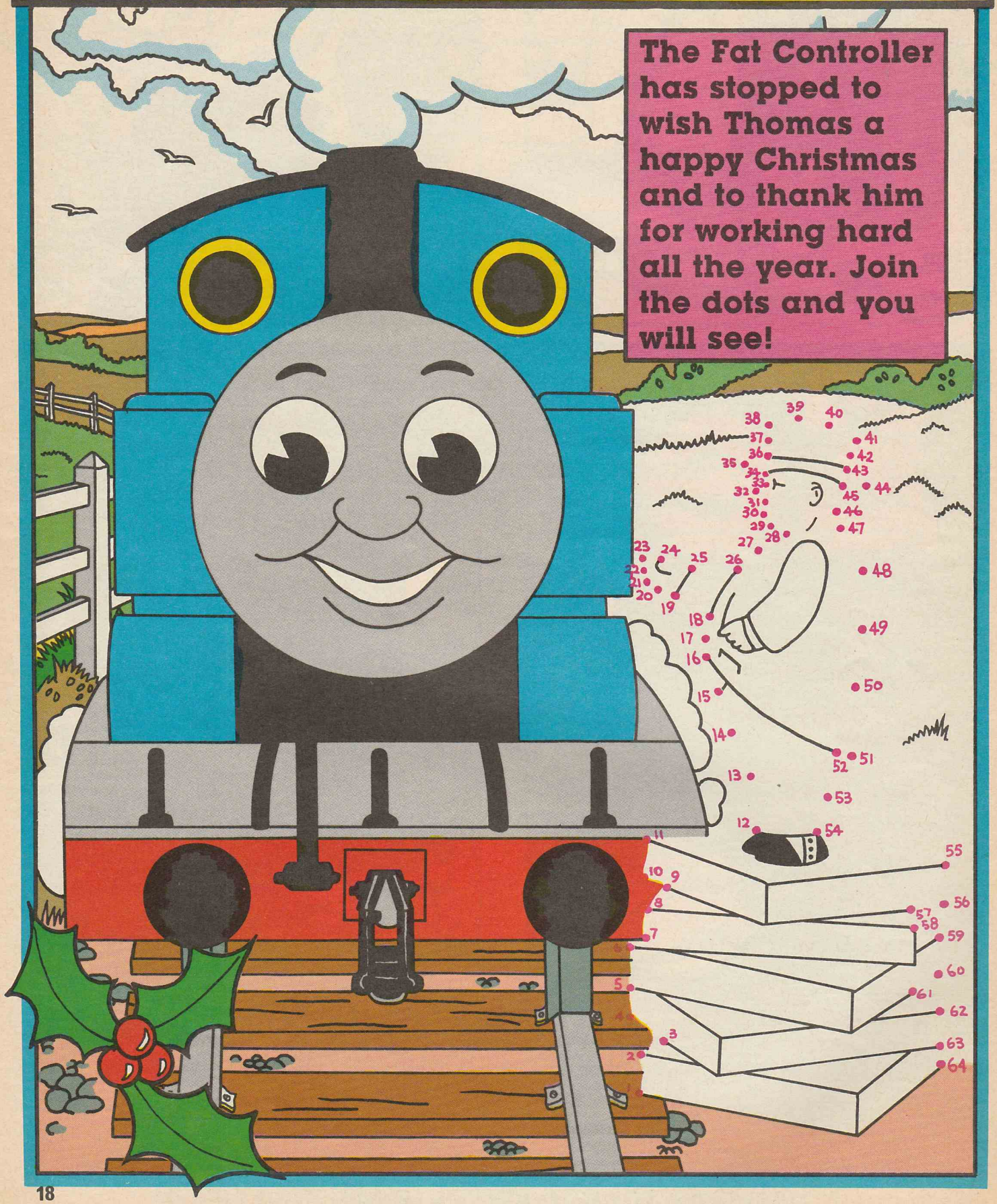


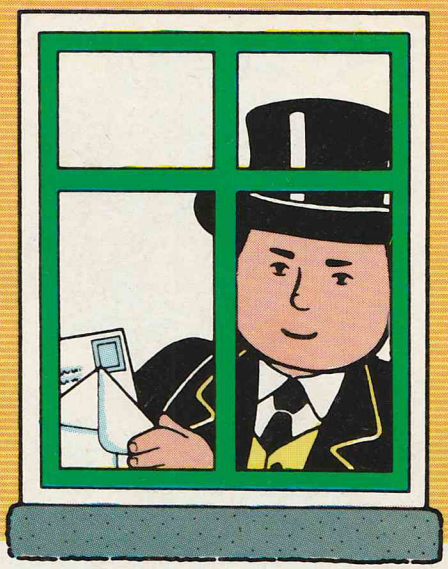
egg

JOIN THE DOTS!



Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER PRIZES

The sender of the best letter which is printed on this page each fortnight will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine Mug**, from *Bluebird*. So please don't forget to include your address if you write!

TRAIN SPOTTING!

Dear Fat Controller,
My daddy takes me to our train station and we have given all the engines names. The big London train is called Big Gordon.

Love from **Michael Younghusband**, aged 3

What a very kind daddy you have, to be sure, Michael!

NEW YORK!

Dear Fat Controller,
We went to New York on holiday. In Grand Central Station the driver of a big express let me sit in his seat.

Love from **Andrew Morton**, aged 6

What a very lucky little fellow you must be, Andrew! Upon my soul!

THOMAS THE CAT!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have named my cat Thomas the Tank Engine. Thomas is my favourite engine. My cat is one year old.

Love from **Mark Merritt**, aged 4

I hope you look after your Thomas as well as my Thomas is looked after, here on the Island of Sodor, Mark.

JAMES'S JAPE!

What is small, white and giggles?
A tickled onion!

Guy Nash.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Readers who have birthdays this month include: **Richard Wilson, Robert Beer, Mark Astbury, Ian Rushton, Benjamin Southon, Richard Thorp, Liam Fitton, Christopher Bryan, John Simpson, Robert Shimmin** and **Liam Kavanagh**. Many happy returns to you all!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

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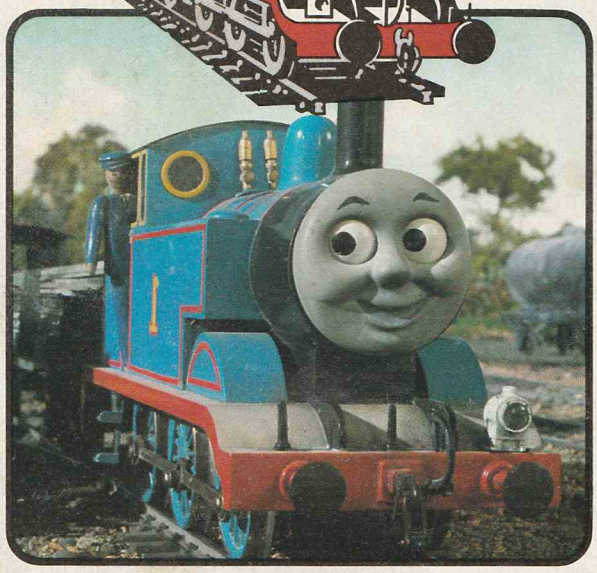
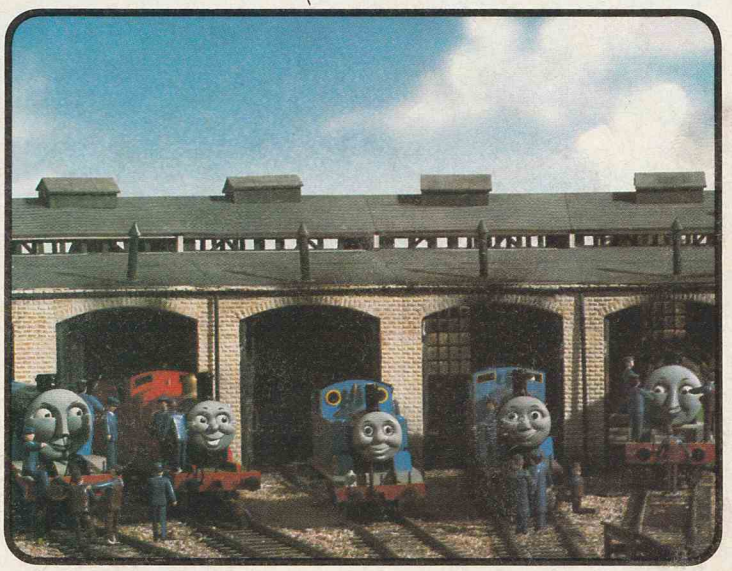
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

TELL-A-TALE

READ, LISTEN AND LEARN



Thomas is a tank engine who lives at a station on the Island of Sodor. He is a cheeky little engine with six small wheels, a short stumpy funnel, a short stumpy boiler and a short stumpy dome.



Thomas has many friends who work with him at the station - Gordon the Big Blue Engine, James the Red Engine, Edward, Percy, Toby and the Fat Controller, Sir Topham Hatt, who is in charge of all the engines.

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